1. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I,

R⁷ R⁶ R⁵ D E R^{4b} OH OH Z R^{2a} R^{2b}

I,

in which

 R^{1a} , R^{1b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl, or together a $-(CH_2)_m$ group with m=2, 3, 4 or 5,

 R^{2a} , R^{2b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl or together a -(CH_2)_n group with n = 2, 3, 4 or 5, whereby, if -D-E- stands for - CH_2 - CH_2 - or Y stands for an oxygen atom, R^{2a}/R^{2b} cannot be hydrogen/methyl,

 R^3 means hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl, R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_p$ group with p=2, 3, 4 or 5,

D-E means a group

 R^5 means hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl,

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 R^6 , R^7 each mean a hydrogen atom, together an additional bond or an oxygen atom,

means hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl, which can all be substituted,

X means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{23} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α , δ -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^9 or a grouping $CR^{10}R^{11}$, whereby

 R^{23} \stands for a C_1-C_{20} alkyl radical,

 R^9 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG^x , R^{10} , R^{11} are the same or different and stand for hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl radical or R^{10} and R^{11} together with the methylene carbon atom together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

- Y means an oxygen atom or two hydrogen atoms,
- Z means an oxygen atom or H/OR¹², whereby

R¹² means hydrogen or a protective group PG².

- 2. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} and R^{2b} all can have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.
- 3. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1, in which \mathbb{R}^3 , \mathbb{R}^{4a} , \mathbb{R}^{4b} , D-E, \mathbb{R}^5 , \mathbb{R}^6 and \mathbb{R}^7 all can have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, and the

remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.

- 4. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1, in which R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and X all can have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.
- 5. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} , R^{2b} , R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , D-E, R^5 , R^6 and R^7 all can have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.
- 6. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} , R^{2b} , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and X all can have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.
- 7. Epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1, in which R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , D-E, R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and X all can have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, and the remainder of the molecule is identical to naturally occurring epothilone A or B.
- 8. Compounds of general formula I, namely (4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-

tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione, and

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(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclonexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (B)
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(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione and (1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R, N1S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione and (1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(4S,7S,8R,9S,13Z,16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione and

(4S,7S,8R,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

(1S,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-

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4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione, and
(1R,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-
(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-
4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione
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(1S, %S(E), 7S, 10S, 11R, 12S, 16R) -7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl) ethenyl) -10-ethyl-8, 8, 12, 16-tetramethyl-4, 17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5, 9-dione, and
(1R, 3S(E), 7S, 10S, 11R, 12S, 16S) -7, 11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl) ethenyl) -10-ethyl-8, 8, 12, 16-tetramethyl-4, 17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5, 9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13- pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione, and

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene2,6-dione

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione, and (1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

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(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-
pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-
2,6-dione, and
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(4S, XR, 8S, 9S, 13E, 16S(E)) - 4, 8 - dihydroxy - 5, 5, 7, 9, 13 - 6pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione, and

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl) ethenyl) -1-oxa-7-phenyl-5,5,9,13tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

 $(1(S \text{ or } R), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16R) - 7 \ 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - 1)$ methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-phenyl-8,8,12,16tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - 1)methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-phenyl-8,8,12,16tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-7-Benzyl-4,8-dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16R) - 10 - Benzyl - 7, 11 - dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - methyl - 2 - (2 - methyl - 4 - thiazolyl) ethenyl) - 8, 8, 12, 16 - tetramethyl - 4, 17 - dioxabicyclo[14.1.0] heptadecane - 5, 9 - dione

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-10-Benzyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,13-tetramethyl-9-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,N1-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

Sub Sur

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 14E/Z, 16R) -7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2 (2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 14E/Z, 16S) -7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-11-ine-2,6-dione

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ine-5,9-dione

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ine-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-13-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

Sub Simo

(1(S-or-R), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16R) - 7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16trifluoromethy1-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione

 $(1(R \ \Delta r \ S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - S)$ methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl) ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-pentafluoroethyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9dione

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - 1)methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[\14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-7,9,13-trimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) -7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-13-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-16-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-16-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(È))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-propyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-propyl-8,8,10,12tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 14E/Z, 16S) -7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-propyl-8,8,10,12tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-didne

 $(1(S \text{ or } R), 3\S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16R) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - 1)$ methyl-2-(2-pyridyl) ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0] heptadecane-5,9-dione

 $(1(R \text{ or } S), 3S(E), 7S\10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - S)$ methyl-2-(2-pyridyl) ethenyl) -8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadedane-5,9-dione

 $(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16\S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-$ 2-(4-pyridyl) ethenyl) -1-oxa-5, 5, 7\ 9, 13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16R) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - 1)methyl-2-(4-pyridyl) ethenyl) -8,8,10,12,1%-pentamethyl-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) - 7, 11-Dihydroxy-3-(1methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)-ethenyl)-8-,8-,-10-,-12-,-16-pentamethyl-4-,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

(4S, 7R, 8S, 9S, 13 (E or Z), 16S(E)) - 4, 8 - Dihydroxy - 16 - (1 - methyl - 16S(E)) - 16S(E)) - 16S(E)(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethylcyclobexadec-13-en-6-one

 $(1(S \partial_x R), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16R) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - 1)$ methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-9-one

(1(R or S), 3S(E), 7S, 10R, 11S, 12S, 16S) - 7, 11 - Dihydroxy - 3 - (1 - S)methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-9-one.

Process for the production of epothilone derivatives of general formula I according to claim 1

in which

the substituents have the meanings that are indicated in general formula I, characterized in that

a fragment of general formula A

$$R^{13} \xrightarrow{R^{1a'}} R^{1b'} \xrightarrow{R^{2b'}} R^{2a'}$$

in which

 $R^{1a'}$, $R^{1b'}$, $R^{2a'}$ and $R^{2b'}$ have the meanings already mentioned for R^{1b} , R^{2a} and R^{2b} ,

 R^{13} means CH_2OR^{13a} , CH_2 -Hal, CHO, CO_2R^{13b} , COHal,

R¹⁴ means hydrogen, OR^{14a}, Hal, OSO₂R^{14b},

 R^{13a} , R^{14a} mean hydrogen, SO_2 -alkyl, SO_2 -aryl, SO_2 -aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_o$ group or together a $CR^{15a}R^{15b}$ group,

 R^{13b} , R^{14b} mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_1-C_{20} aralkyl,

 R^{15a} , R^{15b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_q$ group,

Hal means halogen,

o means 2 to 4,

q means 3 to 6,

including all stereoisomers as well as their mixtures, and free hydroxyl groups in R¹³ and R¹⁴ can be etherified or esterified, free carbonyl groups can be ketalized in A and R¹³, converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free acid groups in A can be converted into their salts with bases, is reacted with a fragment of general formula B

in which

 $R^{3'}$, $R^{4a'}$, $R^{4b'}$ and $R^{5'}$ have the meanings already mentioned for R^{3} , R^{4a} , R^{4b} and R^{5} , and

means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{17} , a C_2-C_{10} alkylene- α , δ -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched or H/OR^{16} ,

W means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{19} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α , δ -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched or H/OR^{18} ,

 R^{16} , R^{18} , independently of one another, mean hydrogen or a protective group PG^1

 R^{17} , R^{19} , independently of one another, mean C_1-C_{20} alkyl, to a partial fragment of general formula AB

in which R^{1a'}, R^{1b'}, R^{2a'}, R^{2b'}, R³, R^{4a}, R^{4b}, R⁵, R¹³, R¹⁴, D, E, V and Z have the meanings already mentioned, and PG¹⁴ represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG, and this partial fragment AB is reacted with a fragment of

1

general formula C

in which

 $R^{8'}$ has the meaning already mentioned in general formula I for R^{8} , and

R7' means à hydrogen atom,

R²⁰ means a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG²,

 R^{21} means a hydroxy group, halogen, a protected hydroxy group OPG^3 , a phosphonium halide radical $PPh_3^+Hal^-$ (Ph = phenyl; Hal = F, Cl, Br, I), a phosphonate radical $P(O)(OQ)_2$ (Q = $C_1^-C_{10}$ alkyl or phenyl) or a phosphine oxide radical $P(O)Ph_2$ (Ph = phenyl),

U means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{23} , a C_2-C_{10} alkylene- α , δ -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^9 or a grouping $CR^{10}R^{11}$, whereby

 R^{23} stands for a C_1-C_{20} alkyl radical,

R9 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG3,

 R^{10} , R^{11} are the same or different and stand for

hydrogen, a C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl

 $_$ radical $_$ or $_$ R 10 $_$ and $_$ R 11 $_$ together $_$ With $_$ the $_$ methylene $_$

carbon atoms together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

to a partial fragment of general formula ABC

in which R^{1a'}, R^{1b'}, R^{2a'}, R^{2b'}, R³, R^{4a}, R^{4b}, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R¹³, R¹⁴, D, E, U and Z have the meanings already mentioned, and this partial fragment of general formula ABC is cyclized to an epothilone derivative of general formula I.

- 10. Pharmaceutical preparations that contain at least one compound of general formula I according to claim 1, as well as a pharmaceutically compatible vehicle.
- 11. Use of the compounds of general formula I according to claim 1 for the production of pharmaceutical agents.
 - 12, Process for the production of compounds of general

formula A

$$R^{4a}$$
 R^{4b} R^{5c} R^{5a} R^{5b} A,

in which

 R^2 means CH_2OR^{2a} , CHO, CO_2R^{2b} , COX,

 R^{2a} , R^{2b} mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl,

R³ means hydrogen, OR^{3a}, X, OSO₂R^{3b},

 R^{3a} means hydrogen or together with R^{2a} a $-(CH_2)_n$ group or a $CR^{6a}R^{6b}$ group,

 R^{3b} means C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl,

X means halogen,

n means 2 to 4,

 R^{6a} , R^{6b} are the same or different and mean C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl or together a $-(CH_2)_o$ group,

o means 3 to 6,

R6a additionally can assume the meaning of hydrogen,

 R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_m$ group,

m means 2 to 5,

 R^{5a} , R^{5b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_p$ group,

p means 2 to 5,

R^{5c} means hydrogen,

including all stereoisomers and mixtures thereof,

and

free hydroxyl groups can be etherified or esterified in R^2 and R^3 , free carbonyl groups can be ketalized in A and R^2 , converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free acid groups in A can be converted into their salts with bases, wherein

a) a pantolactone of general formula IIa or

in which

R4a and R4b in each case are methyl groups or

b) a malonic acid dia kyl ester of general formula XXVIII

in which

 R^{4a} , R^{4b} , which have the meaning that is indicated in general formula A, and alkyl, independently of one another, mean a C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl or C_4-C_{20} alkylcycloalkyl radical, is used as a starting product.

13. Compounds of general formula A'

$$R^{2}$$
 R^{3}
 R^{5c}
 R^{5c}
 R^{5a}
 R^{5b}

in which

- R² means CH₂OR^{2a}, CHO, CO₂R^{2b}, COX,
- R^{2a} , R^{2b} mean hydrogen, $C_1 C_{20}$ alkyl, aryl, $C_7 C_{20}$ aralkyl,
- R³ means hydrogen, OR^{3a}, X, OSO₂R^{3b},
- R^{3a} means hydrogen or together with R^{2a} a -(CH₂)_n group or a $CR^{6a}R^{6b}$ group,
- R^{3b} means C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl,
- X means halogen,
- n means 2 to 4,
- R^{6a} , R^{6b} are the same or different and mean C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl or together a $-(CH_2)_0$ group,
- o means 3 to 6,
- R^{6a} additionally can assume the meaning of hydrogen,
- R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_m$ group,
- m means 2 to 5,
- R^{5a} , R^{5b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_p$ group,
- p means 2 to 5,
- R^{5c} means hydrogen,

including all stereoisomers and mixtures thereof,

and

free hydroxyl groups can be etherified or esterified in R² and R³, free carbonyl groups can be ketalized in A and R², converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free acid groups in A can be converted into their salts with bases,

excluding the compounds

14. Process for the production of compounds of general formula A"

in which

 R^3 means OR^{3a} and

R^{3a} means hydrogen or a protective group PG

 R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen,

 $C_1-C_{10}-alkyl$, $C_7-C_{20}-aralkyl$, or together a -(CH₂) group,

m means 2-5,

 R^{5a} , R^{5b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, $C_1-C_{10}-alkyl$, $C_7-C_{20}-aralkyl$, or together a -(CH₂)p group,

p means 2-5,

including all stereoisomers and mixtures thereof, and

free carbonyl groups can be ketalized in A.", wherein a compound of general formula II

$$O_{1} \xrightarrow{3} N \xrightarrow{X}$$

$$X$$

$$X$$

$$Y \xrightarrow{4 - 9}$$

in which

X is a chlorine or bromine atom, and the 2-oxazolidinone ring has either a (4R,5S) or a (4S,5R) conformation, is reacted with a compound of general formula III

$$R^{4a}$$
 R^{4b} H R^{5a} R^{5b} O O

in which

 R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, $C_1-C_{10}-alkyl$, $C_7-C_{20}-aralkyl$, or together $a-(CH_2)_m$ group, m means 2-5,

R^{5a}, R^{5b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen,

 C_1-C_{10} -alkyl, C_7-C_{20} -aralkyl, or together a -(CH₂)_p group,

p means 2-5,

to a compound of general formula IV

in which

the 2-oxazolidinone ring (4R,5S) and the 3'-carbon atom have an R conformation, or

the 2-oxazolidinone ring (4S,5R) and the 3'-carbon atom have an S conformation,

the 3'-hydroxy group in IV is protected by a protective group PG, the oxazolidinone ring is cleaved, and protective group PG is optionally cleaved.

- 15. Process according to claim 14, wherein the compound of general formula II is reacted in the presence of chromium(II) chloride with a compound of general formula III.
- 16. Process according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the cleaved oxazolidinone ring is recovered in an enantiomer-pure manner.

17 - Compounds of general formula C

$$X$$
 $\stackrel{15}{\longrightarrow}$
 13
 R^3
 C

in which

 R^1 means hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl, which can all be substituted,

R² means hydrogen or a protective group PG¹,

means a hydroxy group, halogen, a protected hydroxy group OPG^2 , a phosphonium halide radical $PPh_3^+Hal^-$ (Ph = phenyl; Hal = F, Cl, Br, I), a phosphonate radical $P(O)(OQ)_2$ ($Q=C_1-C_{10}$ alkyl or phenyl) or a phosphine oxide radical $P(O)Ph_2$ (Ph = phenyl),

% means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^4 , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α , δ -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^5 or a grouping CR^6R^7 , whereby

 R^4 stands for a C_1-C_{20} alkyl radical,

 R^5 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG^3 ,

 R^6 , R^7 are the same or different and stand for hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl radical or R^6 and R^7 together with the methylene carbon atom together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

whereby not simultaneously

- R¹ can be a methyl group, R² can be a tertbutyldimethylsilyl or benzyl radical, R³ can be an
 O-tert-butyldimethylsilyl radical and X can be a

 (2-methylthiazol-4-yl)methylene radical or
 R¹ can be a methyl group, R² can be a tertbutyldimethylsilyl radical, R³ can be a

 triphenylphosphonium iodide radical and X can be a

 (2-methylthiazol-4-yl)methylene radical.
- 18. Compounds of general formula C according to claim 17, wherein R^1 stands for a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_1-C_4 alkyl radical, a phenyl radical that is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 radicals, selected from the group of substituents halogen, free hydroxy group or protected hydroxy group OPG^4 , C_1-C_4 alkyl, azido, nitro, nitrile, and amino (NH_2) .
- 19. Compounds of general formula C according to claim 17, wherein X stands for an oxygen atom.
- 20. Compounds of general formula C according to claim 17, wherein the aryl radical that stands for R^6 and/or R^7 stands for a phenyl radical that is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 radicals, selected from the group of substituents halogen, free hydroxy group or protect hydroxy group OPG⁵, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, azido, nitro, nitrile, amino (NH₂), or for a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl radical that is optionally substituted with 1 to 2 C_1 - C_4 alkyl radicals.
- 21. Compounds of general formula C according to claim 20, wherein the aryl radical that stands for R⁶ and/or R⁷ is selected from the group 2-, 3-furanyl; 2-, 3-, 4-pyridinyl; 2-, 4-, 5-

thiazolyl; 2-, 4- and 5-imdiazolyl radical, which optionally is substituted by 1 or 2 C_1 - C_4 alkyl radicals.

- 22. Compounds of general formula C according to claim 17, wherein protective groups PG¹, PG², and PG³ are selected from the group of substituents methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxyethyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl, tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, tribenzylsilyl, triisopropylsilyl, benzyl, para-nitrobenzyl, para-methoxybenzyl, formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, pivalyl, butyryl, or benzoyl radical.
- 23. Compounds according to claim 18, wherein protective group PG⁴ is selected from the group of substituents methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxyethyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl, tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, tribenzylsilyl, triisopropylsilyl, benzyl, para-nitrobenzyl, para-methoxybenzyl, formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, pivalyl, butyryl or benzoyl radical.
- 24. Compounds according to claim 20, wherein protective group PG⁵ is selected from the group of substituents methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxyethyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, tertbutyldimethylsilyl, tertbutyldiphenylsilyl, tribenzylsilyl, triisopropylsilyl, benzyl, para-nitrobenzyl, para-methoxybenzyl, formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, pivalyl, butyryl or benzoyl radical.

- 25. Compounds according to claim 22, wherein protective group PG¹ is a tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl or triisopropylsilyl radical.
- 26. Compounds according to claim 22, wherein protective group PG² is a tert-butyldimethylsilyl, acetyl, benzoyl, benzyl or tetrahydropyranyl radical.
- 27. Process for the production of compounds of general formula \mathbf{C}'

in which

 R^1 means hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7-C_{20} aralkyl, which can all be substituted,

 R^2 means hydrogen or a protective group PG^1 ,

- R^3 means a hydroxy group, halogen, a protected hydroxy group OPG^2 , a phosphonium halide radical $PPh_3^+Hal^-$ (Ph = phenyl; Hal = F, Cl, Br, I), a phosphonate radical $P(O)(OQ)_2$ ($Q=C_1-C_{10}$ alkyl or phenyl) or a phosphine oxide radical $P(O)Ph_2$ (Ph = phenyl),
- % means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^4 , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α , δ -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^5 or a grouping CR^6R^7 , whereby

R⁴ stands for a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl radical,----

R⁵ stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG³,

 R^6 , R^7 are the same or different and stand for hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl radical or R^6 and R^7 together with the methylene carbon atom together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

wherein L-(-)-malic acid, D-(+)-malic acid or racemic malic acid is used as a starting product.

- 28. Process according to claim 27, wherein L-(-)-malic acid or D-(+)-malic acid is used.
 - 29. Intermediate compounds of general formula VI"

in which

 R^1 , PG^1 and R^5 have the meaning that is indicated in general formula C, and

 PG^{2+H} stands for a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG^2 .

30. Process for the production of the compounds of general formula VI" according to claim 29, wherein an organometal compound of general formula

 R^1Y

in which

- R^1 has the meaning that is indicated in general formula C', and
- Y stands for an alkali metal atom or MZ, whereby M is a divalent metal atom and Z is a halogen atom,

is added to a compound of general Formula IV

in which

 PG^1 has the meaning that is indicated in general Formula C, while the lactol ring is opened, and then optionally the primary hydroxy group is protected with a protective group PG^2 and optionally the secondary group is protected with a protective group PG^3 .

Abstract

This invention relates to the new epothilone derivatives of general formula I,

in which

substituents Y, Z, R^{2a} , R^{2b} , R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , D-E, R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and X have the meanings that are indicated in more detail in the description.

The new compounds interact with tubulin by stabilizing microtubuli that are formed. They are able to influence the cell-splitting in a phase-specific manner and are suitable for treating malignant tumors, for example, ovarian, stomach, colon, adeno-, breast, lung, head and neck carcinomas, malignant melanomas, acute lymphocytic and myelocytic leukemia. In addition, they are suitable for anti-angiogenesis therapy as well as for treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases (psoriasis, arthritis). To avoid uncontrolled proliferation of cells and for better compatibility of medical implants, they can be applied or introduced into polymer materials.

The compounds according to the invention can be used alone or-to-achieve additive or synergistic actions in combination with

other principles and classes of substances that can be used in tumor therapy.